



MINUTES

June 19, 2024 - 8:30 to 10 am

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Classroom

Commissioners Present:

Jim Piersall, Nick Jelinek, Anne Armitage, Clifton Trebil-Smith, Chad Pelley, Ben Dillon, Lijun Chadima, Paula Wickham

Commissioners Absent:

Heather Armstrong

Guests: Jennifer Pratt, Angie Charipar, Philip Platz, Ann Poe, and Jim Miller

SSMID Staff: Monica Vernon

Welcome:

Chairman Piersall welcomed Commissioners.

Quorum and Call to Order:

Chairman Piersall called the meeting to order at 8:35 A.M.

Approval of the June Agenda: Chadima/Jelinek

Approval of the May Meeting Minutes: Dillon/Chadima

Approval of the May Financials: Dillon/Chadima

Current month end cash balance is \$93,611.70. Monica provided the commission with the updated expenses for Novak Plaza, indicating that for the time being weed removal will be taken care of primarily by volunteers. After talking with the McGrath Family, Monica said they would like to assist with further expenses for Novak Plaza. She will share the quote for the sprinkler system with Pat McGrath.

City of Cedar Rapids Presentation on Construction Information:

Angie Charipar, Assistant City Manager thanked the SSMID for their partnership. Angie discussed the importance of “Paving for Progress” to the City’s street repair and the investments the City has made since it passed. She said often citizens and business owners don’t understand that when the city does street repair it includes infrastructure projects like upgrading sewer, water mains, and sidewalks. These upgrades take longer, the City understands the impact it has on local businesses in the short term and thanked them for remaining positive. Philip Platz, Communications Director, said the City offers robust communication updates on construction zones that impact businesses and that there are several ways to stay informed. He

said on the City's website there is a new page where the community can get daily updates on construction project details. Monica will put out a quick email out to businesses about how to get the link to the construction updates. Monica has requested from Jim Miller with The District, the most current list of district business emails.

Construction Aid Program: SSMID to Lead on City-wide Program:

Monica reported that a committee meeting of SSMID members discussed a program that would include an incentive for businesses directly affected by street construction. Because the committee felt like they are so far behind in getting this program out, they are working to develop a paper voucher, like District Dollars reimbursement program, that district businesses are familiar with. Monica is working with a graphic artist to develop the name and logo for the program. The Economic Alliance and the City, through their channels, will help promote the program. The SSMID Commissioners made a motion to amend the budget to include up to \$2,500 to implement the program. Chadima/Trebil-Smith.

Monica will report on progress and implementation of the program at the next meeting.

Proposal for Czech Village Cutouts:

Jim recognized Commissioner Anne Armitage for her proposal. Anne said the cutouts she was referring to are along 3rd Street SE in New Bohemia, not in Czech Village. Anne said the cutouts exist along the right-away where the trees are planted. She would like the SSMID to consider planting perennials in those spaces and have a design that would provide ground cover to assist with controlling the weeds. Early spring would be the time to plant, but the SSMID should design and budget now. Anne thought it would cost up to \$4,500, \$300 for each of the 15 spaces. Nick asked about ongoing watering, and that expense needs to be considered, who will do it and how much it will cost.

Update on Fulton Lofts:

Monica and Chad indicated that the painting of the murals on Fulton Lofts has been moved back to August with the dedication in September. Monica is working again with the Downtown SSMID to secure use of their lift.

Novak Plaza Update:

Monica said that volunteers from Iowa City and Cedar Rapids helped plant over 300 perennials, bulbs, and shrubs. The dedication is tomorrow, June 20th at 9:00 at Novak Plaza, rain, or shine. Thanks to Nick, the first arbor is up on the 16th Ave. side with the second arriving in the next few weeks. All interpretive panels are also in place in the plaza.

New Business: None

Guest Comment: None

Adjournment: Dillon/Chadima